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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and

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WHEREAS, Although each year 40,000 babies are born in the United States with Congenital Heart Defects (CHDs), newborns with potentially life-threatening conditions are not routinely screened; and

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WHEREAS, Nearly twice as many children die from congenital heart defects as from all childhood cancers combined, yet research for cancer receives five times the funding; and

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WHEREAS, Many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes are caused by undiagnosed CHDs and Childhood-Onset Heart Disease; and

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WHEREAS, Raising awareness about CHDs is important; it will provide hope for families of CHD survivors and comfort to those whose loved ones have lost their battles; it will inform the general public about the symptoms of CHDs and possibly save lives; and it will affirm the need for increased funding to researchers and medical professionals so they can continue their work to improve the outlook for CHD patients; and

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1           WHEREAS, The month of February has been designated as  
2 Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Month; therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare February of  
5 each year to be Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Month in the  
6 State of Illinois, and we encourage all citizens to increase  
7 awareness, education, and services for Congenital Heart  
8 Defects which each year affect thousands of babies in Illinois;  
9 and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Kathleen Mappa, Group Coordinator of Big Dreams  
12 for Little Hearts in Chicago.